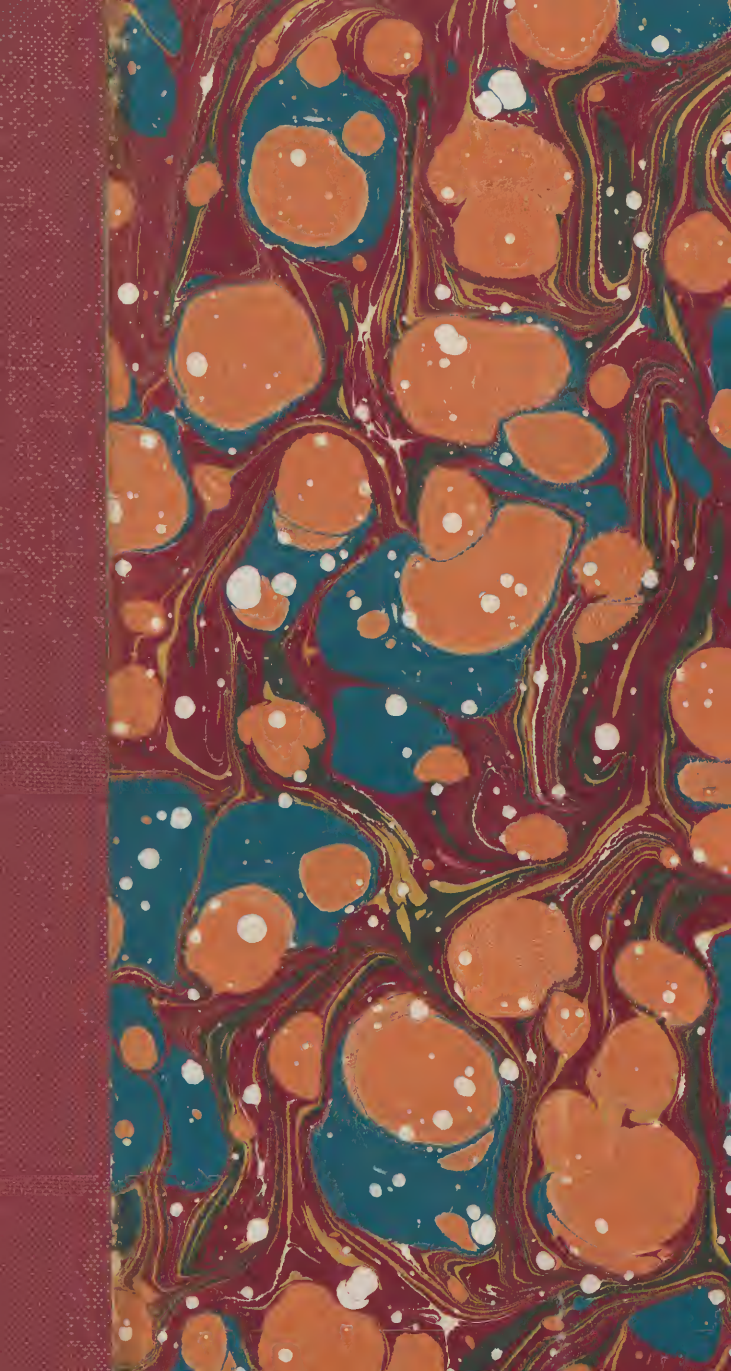


L4571 175.02
not in NLM

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

Bethesda, Maryland

CAUTIONS

TO THE

PUBLIC

AGAINST

NEW ATTEMPTS

TO SUBSTITUTE A

SPURIOUS PREPARATION

FOR THE

ORIGINAL SYRUP OF MR. DE VELNOS;

The RECIPE for which has been purchaſed of Dr. MERCIER for

FOUR THOUSAND POUNDS

BY THE AUTHOR,

ISAAC SWAINSON,

SOLE PROPRIETOR OF

VELNOS' ORIGINAL VEGETABLE SYRUP,

At No. 21, Frith Street, Soho, London.

"Turpe quidem contendere erat; ſed cedere viſum turpius"

M.DCC.LXXXV.

CAUTIONS, &c.

IN the preſent appeal to the public, I am fully impreſſed with the ſentiments of Ovid in my motto. The ſtory I am going to relate is, in all its circumſtances, ſo atrocious, and the perpetrators of the villanies in it are ſo abandoned, that I ſhould be aſhamed to contend with them, if the weak and credulous, did not conſtitute the majority of mankind; and it were not a greater opprobrium to yield the ſlighteſt claim to the loweſt villany, than to ſubmit to the apparent indignity of defeating it.

All thoſe who have attended to the increaſing reputation of Velnos' Vegetable Syrup recollect the caſe of Mrs. Swainſon as the firſt which proved its efficacy in a palſy. I was then in buſineſs in a deſirable and improvable ſituation, and under no temptation to embark in diſhonourable adventures; but having ever had a ſtrong diſpoſition to letters, having obſerved that all the great improvements in the practice of phyſic had been made by empirics or by chance; and having ſeen effects of the Vegetable Syrup much beyond the power of any medicine now in uſe, I propoſed to Dr. Mercier to purchaſe Velnos' recipe for preparing it, as the Doctor was advancing in years, and had never, in my opinion, taken the proper meaſures to render the medicine known.

The price agreed upon, in money and annuities, amounted to *four thouſand pounds*; and an attorney of the

Temple, whose name is MOULSDALE, drew up the deeds of agreement. The obligation of payment devolved upon me, on Dr. Mercier's delivering Velnos' recipe into my hands, on oath, before a master in Chancery, without having disclosed its contents to any person in the world; to the attorney, to the witnesses, or to myself. At the time of signing the deeds, the recipe was taken out of an iron box, in which it was deposited by De Velnos, delivered to me as his original recipe before Mr. Wilmot, a master in Chancery, and returned by me into the same box, which is in my possession.

At this time Burrows and Hodson, who had pretended to be in possession of this recipe, without giving even a plausible tale of the mode of obtaining it, seemed to have given up their idle and groundless pretences: but the cases brought forward by me, and the manner in which I advertised, registered cures, and communicated the effects of my experience, rouzed their miserable inventions; and they reiterated their contradictory assertions, as if on purpose to give me an opportunity of refuting them.

When I thought I had cut off the heads of the Hydra, and that I might apply myself wholly to prepare and administer a medicine, which is daily shewing new properties and powers, I was surprised by an instance of audacious depravity, of which I had imagined human nature incapable.

I received a letter from Moulsdale, the attorney, above mentioned, a copy * of which is inserted in the margin, asserting,

---

* To Mr. SWAINSON.

"SIR,

"I being in possession of the receipt for making and preparing Velnos' Vegetable Syrup, with all the valuable ingredients, and also those that Mercier omitted to make the Syrup less expensive in preparing and substituting A—m—ny.

"Peter Mercier (whom you succeed) having clandestinely connived with his countryman, John L——, to defraud me of a *bona fide* debt of 195l. and upwards, to prevent my recovering payment, Mercier, just before his departure from England, voluntarily made an affidavit, purporting that he understood I was not to be paid by L——, having so agreed—upon condition of L—— not writing to Switzerland that Mercier had taken over his ——— and natural son, and left his wife in England, and other matters. That affidavit

aſſerting, that he poſſeſſed the recipe, and propoſing not to injure my property in it, if I would give him two hundred guineas. Though in the ſhort tranſaction of ſettling the agreement between me and Dr. Mercier, Moulſdale had made ſo many efforts to entangle and embarraſs us, that I was at laſt but barely prevented from kicking him out of my houſe; and though the falſehoods in the letter itſelf, reſpecting Dr. Mercier and Mr. L——, rendered the whole undeſerving of credit, yet I determined to examine into the nature of the artifice to which the wretch could have recourſe. I had no difficulty, but

---

vit was made to ſanction L—— in his impoſitions on the public, to carry about in his pocket, to induce his friends to believe, that what he had informed them, for the purpoſe of borrowing monies and getting goods on credit, under falſe pretences, was ſtrictly true, and that affidavit has prevented the friends of L—— from aſſiſting him to diſcharge my demand, as ſuppoſing not founded in truth, from the affidavit of a man whoſe character is as unpeachable as the matters contained in that affidavit.

" I thought proper to retaliate upon Mercier, and to diſpoſe of that receipt as an indemnity to myſelf, and have reaſon to believe that you are apprized thereof, and have cauſed application to be made to me. It is not my intention to injure you, but to retaliate upon Mercier—in caſe you are diſpoſed to pay me 200 guineas, I will deliver over the receipt to you, with proper affidavits and ſecurity not to divulge the ſecret, and alſo aſſign you over the debt of 195 l. and upwards, due from L—— to me, and ſupport the legality of that debt, not being deſirous to profit by the baſeneſs and treachery of any man, but at all events to ſecure my own property, attempted to be wreſted from me by one Swiſs to ſerve another; and in order to reimburſe yourſelf, you can ſtop payment of the annuities. In caſe you do not think proper to accede to my juſt propoſal, I ſhall, without farther notice, advertiſe the ſeveral ingredients, and where to be purchaſed; the method of mixing and preparing the Syrup, and firſt coſt of each bottle, in all the public papers in town and country, that the public may accommodate themſelves, and prepare their own Syrup at a trifling expence,—in order effectually to lay the Syrup open, and by that means prevent Mercier not only receiving his annuity, but in vending the Syrup; and though not a pecuniary ſatisfaction, ſtill great to me to have it in my power to retaliate on a man who has attempted to deprive me of my property.

" I beg your anſwer by the bearer;

" And am, Sir,

" Your humble ſervant,

Brick Court, Temple, Sept. 6, 1785. " R. MOULSDALE."

on one account. Practitioners of a certain character and ſtile in the law are never at a loſs for a ſufficient number of *knights of the poſt*, who ſwear literally as they are directed. An attorney who had been employed in drawing deeds, which, though *they did not expreſs a ſingle ingredient* of the Vegetable Syrup, had in them ſeveral confidential circumſtances, who could damn his reputation even *by pretending*, that he had abuſed that confidence, ſurreptitiouſly to obtain the recipe; would not ſcruple to produce falſe affidavits, in any number, to give plauſibility to the ſtory he had formed. This danger from Moulſdale was repeatedly urged upon me by my friends: but there is ſomething in truth and honeſty, united with a little ſpirit, which villany can never overcome: I therefore determined to go to Mr. Moulſdale, accompanied by Mr. Cooper, printer, in Drury Lane, whoſe character for integrity and honour I need not proclaim to his ſlighteſt acquaintance; and whoſe teſtimony would outweigh a thouſand *affidavit-makers* brought by Mr. Moulſdale. Mr. Cooper took minutes of what paſſed, and the following is an exact copy of them. The original of all the papers given or alluded to here lie open for inſpection at Mr. Swainſon's, in Frith Street.

MEMORANDUM.

I went this morning, in company with Mr. Swainſon, to Mr. Moulſdale, an attorney, at No. 4, Brick Court, Temple, who has advertiſed for ſale what he called a true copy of the receipt to make Velnos' Vegetable Syrup. Mr. Mouſdale, in my preſence, talking about the receipt, expreſſed himſelf in theſe words: "Dr. Mercier was with "me on the day the buſineſs was ſettled finally between "you and him, (ſpeaking to Mr. Swainſon,) and left "ſome looſe papers upon my deſk, which I did not per- "ceive till the next morning, which on looking over I "found the receipt to make the Syrup among them. I "ſaid to my wife, I'll give the Doctor theſe papers again, "which I did, and he thanked me a thouſand times, and "wondered how he could leave them behind him. I did "not know then that I had this receipt, but my wife "had ſeen it, and copied it unknown to me."

Sept. 8, 1783. J. COOPER.

Though

Though I knew it nearly impoſſible that Dr. Mercier ſhould have carried in a pocket-book, and leave at the Temple a recipe which he never hazarded out of an iron box, and that Moulſdale would not offer for two hundred guineas what he knew had coſt me four thouſand, and which I would not part with for ten; I thought it neceſſary to come into cloſer quarters with ſo practiſed a ſcoundrel. I therefore ſaid, before Mr. Cooper, it was impoſſible I ſhould think of giving him any thing to ſecure my property until I knew he was in poſſeſſion of it. He muſt name the ingredients to me, or read the recipe. He then deſired Mr. Cooper might withdraw, and read to me the following liſt of ingredients:

Mountain flax,	Angelica root,
Burdock root,	Comfry root,
Polypody,	Liquorice root,
Wood ſage,	Wood laurel,
Sarſaparella,	Red ſanders,
Dandelion,	Orange peel.

I could hardly hold in my laughter while he was gravely pronouncing the articles. Not a pilfering footman had ever left Dr. Mercier or myſelf who could not have produced a better recipe for a common decoction. For as it has been our practice to cure the poor gratis, we are teized and obliged to give away thouſands of bottles in a year of a ſlight docoction, where the Vegetable Syrup would be either unneceſſary or improper. The preparation of this decoction we never make any ſecret of; nay it is generally and openly done by a ſervant; and there is hardly an apothecary in the kingdom who has not been furniſhed by our ſervants with a recipe for the decoction, much more full and accurate than Mr. Moulſdale. But there is not in the decoction, or in Mr. Mouſdale's liſt, any ingredient of the Vegetable Syrup of De Velnos', except one; this I will aſſert at any time on oath; and every practitioner in England will ſee that no diſorder could be cured by Mr. Moulſdale's decoction. I therefore turned on my heel, and on leaving his chambers, ſaid, he might do what he pleaſed with his recipe, that I would not give him two pence to conceal it, that he was a complete ſcoundrel, and that as ſuch I ſhould always treat him.

In the evening I had the honour of an epiſtle from * Moulſdale's wife, to whoſe honeſt prudence and induſtry her huſband ſaith he owes the poſſeſſion of the recipe.

This

---

* To Mr. SWAINSON.

"SIR,

"I have juſt been informed that you called on Mr. Moulſdale this morning, and propoſed buying in the recipe of Velnos' Vegetable Syrup, provided that he firſt repeated over the names of the ſeveral ingredients uſed in the ſaid Syrup, which he did. I ſee the drift of your application clearly, under the pretence of purchaſing, to induce him to name the ingredients, to give you an opportunity to deny them. Mr. Moulſdale would never have thought of ſelling the recipe, but to reimburſe himſelf the amount of the money which Mercier has attempted to defraud him of; and as you are pleaſed to deny the ingredients, I muſt be under the neceſſity to inform you, that your aſſertion is intirely falſe, which you in your own conſcience know. The papers of Mercier came into my hands, amongſt which was a letter, from the late De Velnos', with every particular relative to the medicine, and the ſeveral ingredients and proportions made uſe of therein, and am ſurprized you ſhould attempt to deny them. As to the receipt not being the ſame may want explaining. Did not Mercier buy the ingredients from Dickſon in Covent Garden? And I will prove, that, for the ſake of more profit, Mercier omitted ſome of the moſt valuable and expenſive ingredients, particularly ſarſaparella, and in lieu thereof ſubſtituted the cheap and inſignificant root called butchers' broom, and ſo penurious, that, with a view to get the ingredients cheaper, he left Dickſon, and purchaſed the Vegetables from Mr. Butler, on credit; and I have alſo in my poſſeſſion Butler's bills of the Vegetables, ſold at different times, correſponding with the recipe by me copied, and you know you yourſelf at this time purchaſe the ſame ingredients from Mr. Butler; and if occaſion I will publickly call on Butler to prove the fact. Under theſe circumſtances and poſitive facts, with what face can you deny the ingredients? I will alſo prove, that by Mercier's robbing the medicine of the valuable and expenſive ingredients he was under the neceſſity to ſubſtitute antimony. And therefore as you have denied the truth, and declined the propoſal made you, no blame can lye upon me for making it known to Dr. Burrows; and I and my huſband will verify to the public the truth of the recipe and the adulteration, and if not to him, to the public at large, with a verification of the facts; though not with any intention of injuring you, but as ſome ſatisfaction for the inſult and injury wilfully done by Mercier, with the aggrevation of a voluntary and falſe affidavit, to deprive Mr. Moulſdale from recovering his property.

"I am, Sir,

"Your humble ſervant,

"MARGARET MOULSDALE."

Pimlico,
Sept. 8, 1785.

This letter relieved my friends from an apprehenſion, grounded on Mouldſdale's character, that he might produce perſons to ſwear I had acknowledged the authenticity of his recipe: for it ſtates falſe reaſons for my denying it, and accounts for Moulſdale's knowledge of the paltry decoction, by his having obtained poſſeſſion of ſome druggiſts bills to Dr. Mercier, which, containing no ſecrets, were never preſerved with care. It may be uſeful to Burrows, Hodſon, Moulſdale, Baylis, and to any neceſſitous impoſtor who may pretend to De Velnos' recipe—to know that it contains not a ſingle ingredient of the growth or produce of Great Britain; nor are they mentioned in any pharmacopeia; that it is written in Latin, which muſt create a difficulty in purloining it, which *a purchaſed diploma* will not get over, which would defeat the arts of a low-bred pettifogger, and puzzle the provident diſcretion even of Moulſdale's wife.

Defeated in his attempts on me, Moulſdale tried the credulity of the public, and the following advertiſement appeared:

Velnos's Vegetable Syrup, Antivenereal and Antiſcorbutick Recipe.

"To be ſold, the true and genuine Recipe to make and prepare Velnos's Vegetable Syrup, as prepared by the late Mr. de Velnos and his ſucceſſor, Peter Mercier. This Recipe will be verified on oath, if required, with all appertaining circumſtances, to the ſatisfaction of the purchaſer, or any eminent doctor in phyſic, ſurgeon, or other perſon the purchaſer ſhall name, and that the advertiſer hath not, nor will hereafter, divulge the ſecret, and for the performance thereof give bond ſecurity, and warrant the truth of the recipe againſt the pretenſions of all perſons whatever.

"To prevent unneceſſary trouble, the loweſt price is two hundred guineas, not being the twentieth part of the intrinſic value, as the advertiſer will make appear; and that the ſaid medicine is now, and for near twenty years laſt paſt hath been in the greateſt repute.

"Apply to Mr. Moulſdale, attorney, No. 4, Brick Court, Middle Temple."

I conſidered it unworthy of an anſwer, on the ſuppoſition that a tranſaction of this nature would not bear the light, even in the hands of Moulſdale. I attributed the

long ſilence that enſued to ſome apprehenſions he might have, that Dr. Mercier would come over and get him ſtruck off the roll, or tried at the Old Bailey. But I was miſtaken, for an additional character was brought into the ſcene, with which I muſt make my readers a little acquainted, as they will not otherwiſe underſtand the annexed letter, and they may wiſh to know a perſonage who would wield an inſtrument ſo important to the health of the public as Velnos' Vegetable Syrup. A lady, with whom Dr. Mercier has been long acquainted, lodged for ſome time in the houſe with a Mr. Baylis, who kept a little earthenware ſtall in St. James's market, and was then in great diſtreſs. Dr. Mercier, partly from a regard to the intereſt of the lady, and partly from that humanity for which his character has been ever eſteemed, lent Baylis money, and procured him credit at Birmingham in the hardware buſineſs, in which the lady was to have a ſhare. This not only explains Baylis's reference to a connection with Dr. Mercier, but accounts for the acrimony with which Baylis repeats the calumnies of Moulſdale againſt him; for having never paid the money advanced for him by Dr. Mercier, and it being the nature of ingratitude to add venom to the malignity of a depraved mind, Baylis enters with virulence into the plan of depredation on the property conſigned to me by Dr. Mercier.

Meſſrs. Pearſon and Rollaſon are printers and bookſellers of great reputation at Birmingham, and have been for years the ſole country agents of Dr. Mercier and myſelf in the ſale of the Vegetable Syrup. Baylis, who now appears in the character of a Doctor, knew this fact, from having accompanied Dr. Mercier to Birmingham to obtain credit in his new profeſſion of a hardware man, as well as from the public papers. Whether a partnerſhip took place between Baylis and Moulſdale, or the former purchaſed the pretended recipe for Velnos' Vegetable Syrup from the latter, is a fact of little conſequence: their letters prove them *very fit for a partnerſhip*; and if Baylis has been duped by Moulſdale, no honeſt man will pity him.

The firſt intimation I received of Baylis's embarkation in this diſhonorable buſineſs was from the annexed letter to Mr. Rollaſon, who treated it with the ſilent contempt which

which a diſhoneſt deſign covered over with calumny deſerved *.

As the ſale of the Syrup in the country has never been a conſiderable object with Dr. Mercier or myſelf, it being liable to injury or adulteration in almoſt any hands but our own, impoſtors have offered their boldeſt and moſt improbable pretenſions without controul or contradiction in the diſtant towns and villages of the kingdom. This being known to Baylis, I imagined he meant to embark againſt Burrows and Hodſon in vending Vegetable Syrup, which no *weather could ferment*, and *no negligence* injure.

But I was undeceived by the following advertiſement:

" *Velnos's Original Vegetable Syrup.*

" Dr. Baylis having *in his practice* experienced the great effect of this medicine, when duly prepared, in all ſcorbutic, venereal, and their complicated caſes, even after repeated ſalivations has failed, has been induced to purchaſe.

A 6. the

---

* Mr. ROLLASON.

" SIR,

" Having in connection with another gentleman purchaſed the original receipt for preparing Velnos' Vegetable Syrup, warranted upon oath from Mr. Moulſdale, attorney, in the Temple, which was left with him by Dr. Mercier, and which he ſold to enable to repay himſelf a ſum of money which he looked upon the Doctor had defrauded him of.

" You may perhaps recollect me by name, when I inform you I was with you about three or four years ago in procuring ſome of your Birmingham articles for going into connection with Doctor Mercier and Mrs. Moran. As I know you formerly vended this medicine for Dr. M. ſo I would wiſh the advantage ſhould be continued to you; will therefore be obliged for a line in anſwer, ſignifying if it would be agreeable to you or not, and what allowance you uſually had for ſelling it, which would oblige,

" SIR,

" Your humble ſervant,

" EDWARD BAYLIS, M. D.

" The civilities I received at Birmingham, ſhould be happy to return to you or yours upon any occaſion. If you ſhould not chuſe to vend this medicine for us, will be obliged to you if you could recommend us a proper and ſafe perſon in your town."

No. 23, Great Mary-le-bone Street, Cavendiſh Square,
October 10, 1785.

the genuine receipt, warranted upon oath before a maſter in Chancery, and that it is prepared from vegetables only, and not to contain a particle of either mercurial or antimonial preparation whatever. The Doctor begs leave to recommend it to the gentlemen of the faculty in general, and to pledge his honour of its ſucceſs upon thoſe delicate conſtitutions which cannot bear a courſe of mercury, or have been injured thereby. The rheumatiſm, conſumption, nervous diſeaſes, &c &c. and even the palſy, which frequently owe their origin to a ſcorbutic habit, has been repeatedly and effectually cured by a courſe of this medicine.

" The Syrup is ſold at the Doctor's houſe, No. 23, Great Mary-le-bone Street, Cavendiſh Square, who may be conſulted, gratis, any time before eleven in the forenoon, or between two and three in the afternoon."

I thus anſwered it:

" VELNOS' ORIGINAL VEGETABLE SYRUP, *(prepared by* ISAAC SWAINSON, *ſole Proprietor, and only Succeſſor to M. De Velnos, and Dr. Mercier, at No.* 21, *Frith Street, Soho.)*

" The wonderful efficacy and increaſing reputation of this excellent medicine, as a ſpecific in the moſt dreadful conſequences of venereal infection, and generally ſucceſsful in ſcorbutic, ſcrophulous, paralytic, rheumatic, and all other caſes ariſing from obſtructed perſpiration, and a diſeaſed ſtate of the blood, have produced numerous pretenders to a knowledge of its ingredients, who have conſigned themſelves to infamy, by attempting to invade the property of Mr. Swainſon.

" He ſincerely regrets being ſo often obliged to warn the public againſt the artifices of neceſſitous impoſtors, as dangerous to thoſe who ſeek relief from the Vegetable Syrup, as they are injurious to him.

" Dr. Baylis has juſt inliſted himſelf among theſe pretenders, aſſuring the public, he has purchaſed a recipe, authenticated upon oath before a maſter in Chancery. Mr. Swainſon thinks it his duty to guard the credulous and unwary againſt ſuch inſinuations; and he pledges his credit, which he hopes to be unimpeached, to convince any perſon who will call in Frith Street, that no man in England, but himſelf, has purchaſed, or is in poſſeſſion of the recipe, for

for preparing Velnos' Vegetable Syrup. If the intereſt of Mr. Swainſon were not concerned, his humanity to the unfortunate, and his deſire to relieve the afflicted, would induce him to repeat his warnings againſt all preparations, under the name of De Velnos, not made according to the recipe left by himſelf in Frith Street.

The variety and multitude of extraordinary cures which have lately been made under the direction of Mr. Swainſon, and which are the principal ſtimulants to the invention of impoſtors, induce him earneſtly to impreſs on the public the expediency of having recourſe to his opinion and aſſiſtance in all caſes of the leaſt difficulty."

The whole tranſaction may be thus ſtated:—Moulſdale, an attorney, employed by Dr. Mercier and myſelf to draw up the covenant, by which the recipe for preparing Velnos' Vegetable Syrup was transferred to me, pretends to be injured by an affidavit of Dr. Mercier's, purporting that Moulſdale had engaged to conduct a Chancery ſuit for Mr. Liardet, and to pay himſelf out of the advantages to be obtained. To be revenged on Dr. Mercier, *he attempts to invade my property*, and produces a recipe as that of De Velnos, for which he demands two hundred guineas, though it be as common a recipe for decoctions, and as well known to all apothecaries and druggiſts in the kingdom as that for preparing the Pil: Rufi, or even the method of making water-gruel. On having ſuch a plan of extortion treated with contempt, he is joined by Dr. Baylis in calumniating Dr. Mercier, to whom Baylis has been indebted for bread, in order to *deprive me* of the benefits of an expenſive purchaſe, though it be not pretended that I have injured or offended either of theſe adventurers. If therefore any man can be ſo weak or ſo depraved as to credit ſuch a ſtory as is fabricated, or ſuch a medical preparation as is produced by ſuch men, under the name of Velnos' Vegetable Syrup, he will deſerve all the conſequences to be apprehended from their farther machinations in the proſecution of this diſhonourable and miſchievous buſineſs.

J. SWAINSON,
No. 21, Frith Street, Soho.

Nov. 18, 1785.

While these cautions were in the press, a small pamphlet was brought to me, on the subject of Velnos' Vegetable Syrup, signed Edward Baylis, M. D.

I had a difficulty in recognizing a man whom I had known in a short space of time, first an earthenware, then an hardwareman, and then a porter to an apothecary at Chelsea. It was in the last capacity, I suppose, he *studied* physic, and acquired those notions of the importance of consulting physicians which are detailed in this bloated composition of conceit and dishonesty, of plagiarism and nonsense. It must have been in this capacity of porter that he could have known any thing of "the first gentle-"men of the faculty which (he says) he has the honour "to be acquainted with *in his practice*," p. 1.

In the same page he adds, it was the excellence of the medicine (of Dr. Mercier's and mine, not the recipe of Moulsdale's wife,) "that induced Dr. BAYLIS to purchase the genuine receipt, *testified* upon oath; which affidavit any purchaser, for greater satisfaction, may have recourse to." Who is not struck with awe at the self-importance of DOCTOR BAYLIS? And what condescension in so *exalted* and so *upright* a character to guard the purity of an invaluable medicine? But why not give a copy of Moulsdale's affidavit on the occasion of selling his wife's recipe for Velnos'? I doubt any affidavit being made. For Moulsdale has long hawked the *old woman's* receipt. He offered it to Burrows and Hodson, who rejected it with scorn, as much inferior even to what they possessed.

In a phraseology which indicates the habits of his former employments, he says, "he has experienced the-"most favourable opinion of the Vegetable Syrup from re-"peated trials." These trials must have been made before Mrs. Moulsdale fabricated, as she would insinuate, her receipe from her bills, or fragments of druggists bills, in Dr. Mercier's pocket-book.

He again (p. 5.) recurs to his *medical* consequence, and says, that in this nefarious business he has "received "encouragement from all the learned and liberal part of "the profession with whom he has any connection in prac-"tice." What gentleman of the medical faculty would have any connection with Baylis, because he has the impudence to call himself a Doctor, or may have purchased a diploma from a poor Scotch University; who may have added

added to its list of diplomatized sharpers and uncertificated bankrupts, the miserable porter of an apothecary? This title would have been granted Moulsdale, even in his former capacity of a cheesemonger; or to Moulsdale's wife, who certainly, in a medical view, is the superior genius to Baylis or her husband.

But the medical gentlemen he has in his eye are those who have given their attestations to cases under the direction of Dr. Mercier. These cases Baylis has garbled and purloined into his pamphlet; imagining the public would have the folly to believe the cures were performed by the recipe given to Baylis by Moulsdale's wife.

The affected pomp of this low-bred and needy impostor, dragged dishonourably through the meanest occupations into the dignity of an empiric for the sale of a wretched decoction, and even that surreptiously obtained, would be incredible, if not given in his own words, (p. 5.) "These "weighty considerations, with many others equally im- "portant, *has* induced the proprietor to step out of the "*line of regular practice*, and to make pnblic to the "world his determination of faithfully preparing Mr. "De Velnos' genuine original Vegetable Syrup; and that "however others may have deviated in this respect from "the original receipt, nothing shall induce him to alter "*one article or ingredient therein*, as warranted upon oath "by Madam De Velnos, an *extract* of whose affidavit is "hereunto annexed."

What delicacy respecting his line of life! Baylis is in the direct line of the practice of his life, in pillaging my publications, and substituting an insignificant decoction, as a remedy for those disorders which are relieved, and cured only by the Vegetable Syrup of Mr. De Velnos.

Until I had seen Baylis's wretched pamphlet on the subject of this imposture, I had some reluctance in ranking him with Moulsdale and his medical consort, and thought it possible he had been their dupe. But the low and unprincipled artifice with which he adopts the experience and language, and even copies the cases published in Frith Street, suppressing the names of the real proprietors, and attempting to support with their credit an useless preparation from Mrs. Moulsdale's recipe: These are instances of deliberate and villainous dishonesty, which may link

him

him to Moulſdale's heart, if the hearts of ſuch men can be united.

And he may probably ſay with antient Piſtol,

" I'll live by Nym, and Nym ſhall live by me,
" And friendſhip ſhall combine, and brotherhood.
" Is not this juſt ?"

I muſt repeat what I have often obſerved, and what the reſpect I owe my friends and the public requires of me,—that I ſhould not ſoil my fingers with ſuch characters as have attempted to invade my property, if there were not a poſſibility that Mrs. Moulſdale's decoction, poiſoned with antimony or corroſive ſublimated mercury, may be impoſed on the unſuſpecting and credulous, and prevent the benefit which the afflicted might receive from the genuine Syrup of Mr. De Velnos'.

J. SWAINSON,
No. 21, Frith Street, Soho.

The following CURES have been lately performed under the Direction of Mr. SWAINSON, and he takes this opportunity of submitting them to the public.

PALSY.

To Mr. SWAINSON.

Birmingham,
Navigation Office, Sept. 28, 1785.

SIR,

I had lain under a violent rheumatic pain in my head for a considerable time, when about eight years ago I was advised to the cold bath; the first immersion relieved me from the pain, but brought on a paralytic complaint, which for a short time deprived me of my mental faculties, the use of my left side, and the sight of that eye: my faculties and the sight of the eye were in a few months restored by medical assistance, electricity, and sea-bathing; the left side continued very weak and helpless: the severity of the two last winters, or some other cause unknown, very much impaired my remaining health and strength, insomuch that I was apprehensive of a deep consumption, and the near approach of my dissolution: my left leg swelled very much, and became discoloured and very painful near the ancle; my left eye extremely weak; my breath short and fœtid, and my spirits low. In this situation it was natural to wish for relief, and I was prevailed upon to take a few bottles of your Syrup, although the spring was so very cold and severe: before I had taken four bottles, the swelling and pain of my leg were removed; the circulation of my left side and the use of it much increased, and my left eye very much strengthened; my breath became sweet, and my spirits lively and chearful. During the whole time I continued taking your Syrup, viz. from February to the latter end of April. I perceived my health, strength, and spirits, gradually increase, and can with great pleasure, satisfaction, and gratitude, say, that in these respects I never was better. My left side still continues rather weak, and the perfect use is not quite restored, but hope a few bottles, which I intend to take next spring, will, with the blessing

of

of God, quite restore it; and I doubt not but it would now have been perfect, had the winter and spring been less severe.

I am, Sir,
With the truest respect,
Your grateful humble servant,
JOHN RIDYARD.

Suppression of the Menses.

Mary Lewelyn, lately a servant to Mrs. Farren, Monmouth Street, Bath, took a violent cold in December 1784, which occasioned a total suppression of the menses, attended by oedemateous swellings of the legs and feet. Indurations appeared in various parts of the body, resembling boils covered with leprous scales, which fell off, and were succeeded by others. Her appetite and strength declined, and her condition became extremely wretched. She had been attended by a physician and by two eminent surgeons at Bath, and she had tried the waters with no beneficial effect. In this miserable state she was recommended to the Infirmary at Bristol as to the last asylum of despairing wretchedness, when she was fortunately advised to try the Vegetable Syrup of Mr. De Velnos. In six days it brought on the periodical discharge, and in three weeks perfectly compleated a cure.

This case is only one of many in the possession of Mr. Swainson, in which the Vegetable Syrup of Mr. De Velnos has removed the various and dreadful effects of the irregularity, obstruction, or suppression of the menses. As women in situations of this kind have recourse to dangerous expedients and violent remedies, he thinks it as much his duty as his interest to point out a relief, which is at once effectual and harmless.

Farther information of this case may be had of Mrs. Pine, printer, at Bristol.

VENE-

VENEREAL DISEASE.

On the preſent occaſion it is ſufficient to ſay of this medicine, what cannot be ſaid of any other in the world, that *it has never failed* of a perfect cure in the venereal diſeaſe, whatever malignity it had acquired, either by time or miſmanagement; that patients in great numbers have been ſent as incurable to Frith Street from all the moſt eminent phyſicians and ſurgeons in London, and have been *all* cured; and that not *a ſingle patient* in the practice of twenty years has ever been ſent from Frith Street to any medical practitioner on earth. Mr. Swainſon would reſt the credit of the Syrup on this fact, which is eaſily and clearly ſuſceptible of proof or confutation.

Mrs. *L*———, of Birmingham, was put on a courſe of Velnos' Vegetable Syrup, (in May, 1785,) for a venereal complaint of long continuance; for which ſhe had been under the care of every ſurgeon of eminence at Birmingham, without any apparent benefit. She had many large venereal ulcers on the body, and a caries of the ſhin bone, which was pronounced incurable without amputation *.

A certificate of this cure, and many of a ſimilar kind, may be had of Meſſrs. Pearſon and Rollaſon, printers, at Birmingham.

Mrs. *F*——, a married woman, thirty years of age, had her breaſt drawn about five years ago. A month afterwards ſhe had violent pains in her breaſt, and obſerved a ſmall hole on one ſide of the nipple; the pains gradually reached

---

* The ſituation of this patient was ſo peculiar, that it was an inducement to Mr. Swainſon to go down to Birmingham. He was accompanied by two gentlemen, who paid particular attention to this extraordinary caſe; and were not a little aſtoniſhed, that in two months, from circumſtances of the utmoſt deſpondency and danger, ſhe ſhould be reſtored to perfect health.

reached the head, so that the motion even of a coach was excruciating; the shin bones were so affected that she could not bear a stocking or the bed cloaths on them. In this state she applied to the late Dr. Hunter, who supposed the case to be venereal; but, on strictly examining her and her husband, gave up his opinion; ordered blisters to her head, with some other applications, with little effect. She continued in this miserable condition some time; when her body being covered with eruptions, the nature of her disease became apparent; and the symptoms of it discovered themselves on the husband; they were therefore, in the spring of 1780, put upon a course of mercurials by a surgeon of character and skill. Though the evil was traced to its source, and it was discovered beyond a doubt, that her breast had been drawn by an infected woman: yet anxiety of mind, the malignancy of the disorder, and the baneful effects of mercurials, soon put an end to the life of the husband. The disease continued to encroach on her constitution, in spite of the endeavours of the surgeon; and when it made its appearance in her throat and mouth, she thought it her duty to procure other assistance. When she applied at Mercier and Swainson's in Frith Street, Mr. Swainson was shocked at her appearance. The tonsils, the uvula, and many of the surrounding parts, were nearly consumed, and the spine was laid intirely bare. The ulcers in the roof of the mouth had made their way through the palate, so that the liquids she attempted to swallow gushed out at her nose. Her constitution was injured almost as much by the mercury as by the disease; her appetite was nearly gone; her countenance pale; and her appearance cadaverous and shocking. She was immediately furnished with the Vegetable Syrup of Mr. De Velnos, and in ten weeks the ulcers were healed, the holes in the palate grown up, and she left off the medicine. She is now become fat, and her complection fine and ruddy.

Mr. Swainson will refer any inquirer immediately to the patient, as well as to several persons of fortune and character who interested themselves in her fate, and were witnesses of the cure. A surgeon of eminence examined her, at Mr. Swainson's request, and he is ready to bear testimony to these facts.

February, 1785.

In a LETTER.

To Doctor MERCIER.

SIR,

The extraordinary cure I have lately received by a courſe of your Velnos' Vegetable Syrup, binds me in gratitude to make known to the public the wonderful effects of that moſt ſalutary remedy. As the time I began the Syrup, I was afflicted with the moſt melancholy and ſevere venereal ſymptoms that could poſſibly be; ulcerations of the worſt nuture in the throat and palate; almoſt all I drank came through the noſe, the bones of which were conſiderably affected. I had conſtant excruciating pains in all my limbs, one of my knees was anchyloſed, the ancles as well as ſhin bones conſiderably enlarged. I had been ſalivated in the Lock Hoſpital, ſince which I have been under the hands of many of the faculty, and of the firſt conſequence in thair profeſſion. Tired of life, and ſunk in deſpair, I was adviſed to take your Syrup by a perſon receiving a cure in a ſimilar caſe. I am now in perfect health, radically cured of all my diſorders, and a living witneſs of the great efficacy of the Original Vegetable Syrup. In gratitude for benefits received, I requeſt my caſe may be publiſhed; and am thankfully, Sir,

Your ever obliged humble ſervant,

Long Acre, GEORGE OLIVER.
Nov. 16, 1779.

A SCHIRROUS TESTICLE.

To Mr. ISAAC SWAINSON,
at No. 21, *Frith Street, Soho.*

In January 1778, while at New York, I had a cold and ſore throat for three weeks, and my left teſticle was prodigiouſly enlarged and ſoftened. For what reaſon I cannot gueſs, the diſorder paſſed to the right, which continued three months in a ſimilar ſtate, but by degrees grew hard. I came to England in May, but did not apply for aſſiſtance till Auguſt, when a ſurgeon at Kingſton upon Thames adviſed the ſuſpenſion of it in a truſs. I adopted this method for a year and half; but it became ſo painful, and was attended with a general loſs of health, that I had re-

courſe

courſe to one of the moſt eminent and humane ſurgeons in London, who pronounced it a ſchirrous caſe, and adviſed the extraction of it, as the only means of recovering my health; hinting it as his opinion, that it had ariſen from ſome unfortunate female connection. This, I knew, could not be the caſe. I determined not to ſubmit to the dangerous operation he propoſed; and he ordered me gentle phyſic, and camphorated ſpirits, as an embrocation. After uſing the latter two months without relief, I applied, by his advice, a poultice of linſeed meal, &c. for three months more: but having no proſpect of a cure, I began to ſink under the moſt melancholy deſpair. On applying a poultice of bread and milk for ſome months, it broke, and there iſſued a thin, watery matter, of a duſky colour, which every day grew thickpr and more offenſive. I was then perſuaded to conſult a phyſician, who is now abroad; he ordered extract of hemlock internally, and a fomentation of hemlock and camomile. Theſe dreadful medicines, after long trial, afforded me no relief, tended only to confirm the deſpair, under which I muſt have ſunk, if I had not heard of the aſtoniſhing effect of Velnos' Vegetable Syrup, in recovering Mrs. Swainſon of a palſy, occaſioned by a ſcorbutic habit; and your determination in conſequence to purchaſe a ſhare in the property of it; and to add the ſanction of your character for judgement and integrity to its other recommendations to the notice and relief of your fellow creatures.

The ſtate of the ſcrotum, and the enormous ſize and condition of the right teſticle, you might better deſcribe than I can. The inflammation, which had reached the abdomen, was very alarming, and threatened a mortification. I was bled, and took two doſes of phyſic by your direction. I then took the Syrup, which in a few days totally removed the inflammation. The ſecond bottle produced a copious diſcharge of matter; the ſwelling decreaſed; and it is impoſſible to expreſs what I felt at the proſpect which I had loſt for five years, that my health and ſpirits would return. Before I had taken the fifth bottle, my wounds were healed, and the diſeaſed part reſtored to a ſtate of perfect ſoundneſs and health. I took two bottles more by way of ſecurity: and having been recovered from a ſtate of miſery, wretchedneſs, and deſpair, by means of your Syrup, I think it my duty to thank you

for

for the attention you paid me, and to intreat you will communicate my caſe to the world, that others in ſimilar circumſtances may experience the ſurprizing virtues of the Syrup, and enjoy the relief and happineſs which it has brought to me.

I ſhall take the greateſt pleaſure in anſwering the inquiries of any perſons you may refer to me.

I am, Sir,

With gratitude and reſpect,

Your much obliged, and

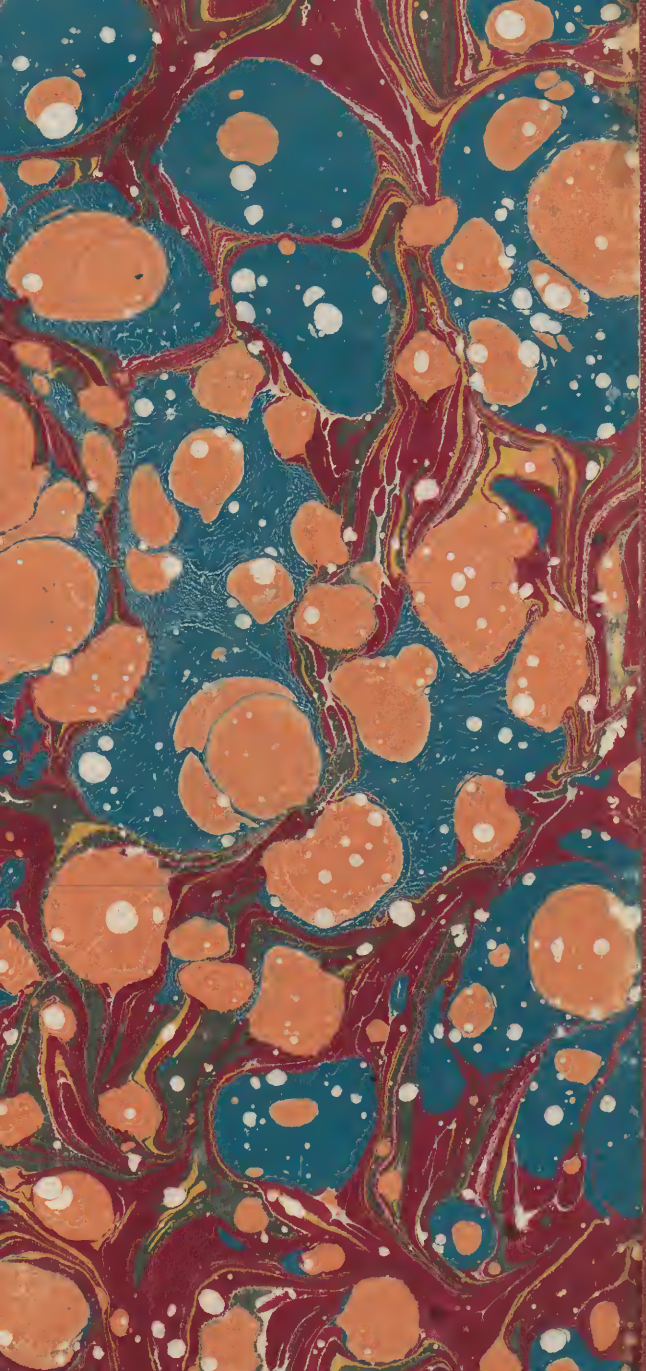
Moſt obedient humble ſervant,

Feb. 5, 1784. ELLIS PRICE,

No. 48, Maiden Lane, Covent Garden.

Atteſted by Thomas Mainwaring, apothecary, Strand; and William Naylor, apothecary, Bedford Street, Covent Garden.

Charles Hulet, plaiſterer, near the King David, Mile Hill, Briſtol, had the venereal diſeaſe in 1783; for which he ſubmitted to a mercurial courſe; the ſymptoms diſappeared, and he was pronounced perfectly cured. In a few months ſwellings appeared in his neck and in each groin; and an excruciating pain near the extremity of the ſpine rendered him unable to walk. Contractions of the limbs and pains in the head deprived him of ſleep; and by loſs of appetite, he became emaciated and wretched. In this condition he applied for Velnos' Vegetable Syrup. He was examined by a ſurgeon of eminence at Briſtol, according to the general deſire of the proprietor (Mr. Swainſon) to thoſe who recommend the medicine. He was put on a courſe of the Syrup, and in ſix weeks perfectly cured.

A certificate of the cure may be ſeen, and farther information obtained, by applying to Mr. Pine, printer, at Briſtol.

Med. Hist
WZ
260
S964c
1785